

Claims:

1. A handheld electronic device configured for thumb-typing by a user, the handheld electronic device comprising:
 - a) a display; and,
 - 5 b) a keyboard comprising a first group of keys and a second group of keys, wherein the first and second group of keys are arranged into a plurality of rows, each of the plurality of rows making an angle generally between 30 and 50 degrees with respect to a longitudinal midline of the device.
- 10 2. The handheld electronic device of claim 1, wherein each group of keys comprises a first row of keys, a second row of keys and a third row of keys, the first row of keys being disposed above the second row of keys and the second row of keys being disposed above the third row of keys, the first row of keys making a first angle with respect to the longitudinal midline, the
15 second row of keys making a second angle with respect to the longitudinal midline and the third row of keys making a third angle with respect to the longitudinal midline, wherein the first, second and third angles are substantially similar.
- 20 3. The handheld electronic device of claim 1, wherein each group of keys comprises a first row of keys, a second row of keys and a third row of keys, the first row of keys being disposed above the second row of keys and the second row of keys being disposed above the third row of keys, the first row of keys making a first angle with respect to the longitudinal midline, the second row of keys making a second angle with respect to the longitudinal
25 midline and the third row of keys making a third angle with respect to the longitudinal midline, wherein the third angle is larger than the second angle and the second angle is larger than the first angle.
4. The handheld electronic device of claim 3, wherein the first angle is chosen to be between about 30 and 40 degrees.

5. The handheld electronic device of claim 3, wherein the second angle is chosen to be between about 34 and 44 degrees.

6. The handheld electronic device of claim 3, wherein the third angle is chosen to be between about 40 and 50 degrees.

5 7. The handheld electronic device of claim 1, wherein each of the keys in each row follow a convex line of curvature with respect to the bottom of the handheld electronic device.

8. The handheld electronic device of claim 1, wherein the keyboard comprises a spacebar key vertically disposed in between the first and second
10 group of keys.

9. The handheld electronic device of claim 8, wherein the spacebar key is contoured to mate with adjacent keys in the first and second group of keys.

10. The handheld electronic device of claim 1, wherein the device further comprises a navigation pad disposed in between the first and second group of
15 keys.

11. The handheld electronic device of claim 1, wherein the keys in the first and second group of keys are diamond shaped.

12. A keyboard for use with a handheld electronic device, the keyboard comprising a first group of keys and a second group of keys, wherein the first
20 and second group of keys are arranged into a plurality of rows, each of the plurality of rows making an angle generally between 30 and 50 degrees with respect to a longitudinal midline of the device.

13. The keyboard of claim 12, wherein each group of keys comprises a first row of keys, a second row of keys and a third row of keys, the first row of keys
25 being disposed above the second row of keys and the second row of keys being disposed above the third row of keys, the first row of keys making a first angle with respect to the longitudinal midline, the second row of keys making

a second angle with respect to the longitudinal midline and the third row of keys making a third angle with respect to the longitudinal midline, wherein the third angle is larger than the second angle and the second angle is larger than the first angle.

- 5 14. The keyboard of claim 13, wherein the first angle is chosen to be between about 30 and 40 degrees.
15. The keyboard of claim 13, wherein the second angle is chosen to be between about 34 and 44 degrees.
16. The keyboard of claim 13, wherein the third angle is chosen to be
10 between about 40 and 50 degrees.
17. The keyboard of claim 12, wherein each the keys in each row follow a convex line of curvature with respect to the bottom of the handheld electronic device.
18. The keyboard of claim 12, wherein the keyboard further comprises at
15 least one of:
- a) a spacebar key vertically disposed in between the first and second group of keys, the spacebar key being contoured to mate with adjacent keys in the first and second group of keys; and,
 - b) a navigation pad disposed in between the first and
20 second group of keys.
19. The keyboard of claim 12, wherein the keys in the first and second group of keys are diamond shaped.
20. The keyboard of claim 12, wherein keys representing letters in the keyboard are laid out according to one of a QWERTY layout, an AZERTY
25 layout and a QWERTZ layout.